Amendments to the claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a ~~mammalian~~ human Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein.

2. (original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is an DNA molecule.

3. (original) The isolated DNA molecule of claim 2, wherein the DNA molecule is an cDNA molecule.

4. (original) The isolated DNA molecule of claim 2, wherein the DNA molecule is a genomic DNA molecule.

5. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is an RNA molecule.

6-11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-

Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

13. (original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 12, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises an isoleucine zipper motif and a hereditary multiple extoses C (EXT C) domain.

14-15. (canceled)

16. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant homolog of the ~~mammalian~~ human Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein comprising a genetic alteration selected from the group consisting of a 9-bp insertion between nucleotide 758 and nucleotide 759, a base substitution of nucleotide 1106 from G to A, a base substitution of nucleotide 1820 from A to G, and a base substitution of nucleotide 2408 from C to T.

17-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

22. (original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

23-97. (canceled)

98. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a deletion mutant.

99. (amended) The deletion mutant of claim 98, wherein the encoded mutant homolog comprises a tumor suppressor ~~locus~~ domain.

100. (amended) The deletion mutant of claim 98, wherein the encoded mutant homolog does not comprise a tumor suppressor ~~locus~~ domain.

101. (previously presented) The vector of claim 22 adapted for expression in a host cell *in vitro* which comprises the regulatory elements necessary for expression of the nucleic acid molecule in the host cell operatively linked to the nucleic acid molecule encoding the Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein, so as to permit the expression of the TREX protein.

102. (previously presented) The vector of claim 101, wherein the host cell is a eukaryotic, bacterial, insect or yeast cell.

103. (previously presented) The vector of claim 103, wherein the eukaryotic cell is a mammalian cell.

104. (previously presented) The vector of claim 103, wherein the vector is a plasmid.

105. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 101.

106. (previously presented) The host cell of claim 105, wherein the host cell is a eukaryotic, bacterial, insect or yeast cell.